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## China - Peoples Republic of

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### China Announces a Two-year Transitional Period on a Proposed Certificate Requirement for Imported Foods

**Report Categories:**

Policy and Program Announcements

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**Report Highlights:**

On September 25, 2017, China notified the World Trade Organization of an Addendum to the "Measures for the Administration of Certificates Attached to Foods Exported to China" (notified as TBT 1209 and commonly referenced as Measure #327). The Addendum grants a two-year transitional period on the implementation of the measures from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2019. This report contains a link to the text of the Addendum. In the unlikely event that U.S. exporters are requested to provide the proposed certificate along with export consignments, kindly contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

## **China Announces a Two-year Transitional Period on a Proposed Certificate Requirement for Imported Foods**

On September 25, 2017, China notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of an [Addendum](#) to the "Measures for the Administration of Certificates Attached to Foods Exported to China" (notified as [TBT 1209](#)<sup>1</sup> and commonly referenced as Measure #327). The Addendum grants a two-year transitional period on the implementation of the measures from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2019.

Citing Article 92 of the [2015 Food Safety Law](#), China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) first proposed the measure in April 2016. As first proposed, the measure required all products imported to China be accompanied by an official certificate, including products considered low-risk (such as cookies, pasta, biscuits). On June 19, 2017, China notified a revised version of the proposed measure to the WTO's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade as notification TBT 1209.

Given the original implementation deadline, in the unlikely event that traders request the proposed certificate, U.S. exporters are encouraged to communicate with the Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing via email [AgBeijing@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgBeijing@fas.usda.gov).

As a matter of practice, given China's current dynamic food regulatory environment, it is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of imported requirements with their foreign customers prior to shipping goods to this market. Post will continue to work closely with relevant Chinese authorities to find commercially viable solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Full unofficial translation of China's WTO notification TBT 1209 will be available soon on the GAIN reporting system.